

What is claimed is:

1. A computerized system for managing favorite channels based on a user specified theme, the computerized system comprising:

5 one or more favorite channel lists, the favorite channel lists comprising one or more logical channels relating to the user specified theme, wherein the computerized system identifies the logical channels showing an event of the user specified theme and includes each of the logical channels in the favorite channel list; and
a favorites database for storing one or more favorite channel lists.

10

2. The computerized system of claim 1, further comprising an EPG content database storing a plurality of events available on one or more channels for a period of time.

3. The computerized system claim 2, wherein the user specified theme corresponds
15 to a theme field of the events in an EPG content database.

4. The computerized system of claim 3, further comprising an EPG data service for managing the EPG content database, the EPG data service providing functions for loading electronic program guide-type data from one or more data services.

20

5. The computerized system of claim 1, further comprising a favorites service providing one or more user interfaces and a plurality of management functions for each one of the favorite channel lists.

6. The computerized system of claim 5, wherein the management functions include at least one function selected from the group of functions consisting of: adding a favorite event to one of the favorite channel lists, removing a favorite event from one of the favorite channel lists, and selecting a favorite event from one of the favorite channel lists.

5

7. The computerized system of claim 1, further comprising a channel map service for determining a physical channel number and a corresponding physical device for each one of the logical channels.

Sub A2
09002906-010598

8. A computerized system for managing favorite channels comprising:
one or more favorite channel lists, the favorite channel lists comprising one or more logical channels relating to a user specified theme, wherein the computerized system identifies the logical channels showing an event of the user specified theme and includes such logical channels in the favorite channel list;
15 application user interfaces for allowing a user to access the computerized system;
channel map services for mapping a logical channel number in the favorite channel list to a physical channel number on a physical device available to the computerized system;
favorites services providing user interfaces and management functions for each
20 one of the favorite channel lists, and
electronic program guide content services for determining what is programmed on the logical channel and for calling channel map services to determine the corresponding physical channel and physical device.

9. The computerized system of claim 8, further comprising a channel map database for storing an association between each one of the logical channels and a physical channel and a corresponding physical device.

5 10. The computerized system of claim 8, wherein the management functions of the favorites service include at least one function selected from the group of functions consisting of: adding one of the logical channels to one of the favorite channel lists, removing one of the logical channels from one of the favorite channel lists, and selecting one of the logical channels from one of the favorite channel lists.

10

11. The computerized system of claim 8, further comprising a favorites database for storing one or more favorite channel lists.

15

12. The computerized system of claim 8, further comprising an electronic program guide content database for storing events available on the one or more channels for a period of time.

20

13. A computerized system for managing channels, comprising:
one or more channels;
a means for storing one or more events occurring on each one of the channels,
each one of the events having a means for identifying a theme; and
one or more means for maintaining a set of channels, each means for maintaining the set of channels comprising the channels having the events relating to a user-specified theme, wherein the computerized system identifies the set of channels by matching the user specified theme to the means for identifying the theme of the event.

25

14. The computerized system as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a means for maintaining a database, the database consisting of each one of the means for maintaining the set of channels.

5 15. The computerized system as claimed in claim 14, further comprising a means for loading data about the events from one or more data services.

16. The computerized system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a means for providing one or more user interfaces and a plurality of management functions for each
10 one of the means for maintaining one or more sets of channels.

17. The computerized system of claim 16, wherein the channel is a logical channel.

18. The computerized system of claim 17, further comprising a means for
15 determining a physical number and a corresponding physical device for each one of the ~~logical channels~~.

19. A method of using a computerized system to dynamically managing favorite channel lists relating to a user specified theme, the method comprising the steps of:
20 identifying one or more channels showing an event of a user specified theme, wherein the step of identifying is achieved by matching one or more event themes from an EPG content database to the user-specified theme, and including each one of the channels in a favorite channel list.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of identifying is achieved by matching one or more event sub-themes from an EPG content database to the user-specified theme.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of identifying is achieved by matching one or more generic event sub-themes from an EPG content database to the user-specified theme.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein the logical channels identified during the step of identifying depend on an update frequency of the EPG content database and a number of time slots included in the favorite channels list.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of identifying is achieved by matching one or more words in a event description from the EPG content database to the user-specified theme.

24. A computer comprising:
a processor;
a computer-readable medium; and
a plurality of computer instructions executed from the computer readable medium by the processor for performing the steps of identifying one or more channels showing an event of a user specified theme and including each one of the channels in a favorite channel list.

Sub a4

25. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions stored thereon for execution on a computer, the computer executable instructions comprising the steps of:

5 identifying one or more channels showing an event of a user specified theme, wherein the step of identifying is achieved by matching one or more event themes from an EPG content database to the user-specified theme, and including each one of the channels in a favorite channel list.

10 26. The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the step of identifying is achieved by matching one or more event sub-themes from an EPG content database to the user-specified theme.

15 27. The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the step of identifying is achieved by matching one or more generic event sub-themes from an EPG content database to the user-specified theme.

28. The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the channels identified during the step of identifying depend on an update frequency of the EPG content database and a number of time slots included in the favorite channels list.

20

29. The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the step of identifying is achieved by matching one or more words in a event description from the EPG content database to the user-specified theme.

Sub a5

09002906 . 010599

30. A computerized system for managing favorite channels based on actual usage comprising:

one or more favorite channel lists, the favorite channel lists comprising one or more logical channels relating to a users actual usage, wherein the computerized system monitors usage of a plurality of physical channels for a predetermined time and includes the logical channel identifier for the physical channels used most frequently in the favorite channel list; and

a favorites database for storing one or more favorite channel lists.

31. The computerized system of claim 24, wherein the predetermined time is a twenty-four period.

32. The computerized system of claim 24, wherein the predetermined time is a time slot.

33. A computerized system for dynamically managing favorite channels based on actual usage by a user, the computerized system comprising:

one or more favorite channel lists, the favorite channel lists comprising one or more logical channels, wherein the computerized system identifies the logical channels that have been viewed most often by the user; and

a favorites database for storing one or more favorite channel lists.